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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In the Matter of	
Revision of the Commission's Rules) to ensure compatibility with) enhanced 911 emergency calling systems)	CC Docket No. 94-102
	DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

REPLY COMMENTS OF AMERITECH

Ameritech respectfully submits these Reply Comments in the abovecaptioned matter in answer to four specific issues raised by various parties who filed Comments on January 9, 1995.

I. THE REALITY OF LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPETITION

In response to the Commission's request for public comment on the factors affecting the implementation of local exchange services to support E911 deployment requirements¹, several parties noted that the recent emergence of local exchange competition should be considered in the current effort to ensure the timely availability of E911 services to the public.² This practically "goes without saying," as the breadth and depth of this competition is widely known and daily documented.

² Joint Comments of APCO, NENA and NASNOOA, at 24-7; Comments of Redcom Laboratories, Inc., at 5.



¹ In the Matter of Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, CC Docket No. 94-102, <u>Notice of Proposed Rule Making</u> ("NPRM"), released October 19, 1994, at 15 (¶29).

Petitions for local exchange certification have been granted by or are pending before state utility commissions across the nation,³ and legislation proposing full and open local exchange competition is currently pending in various states. It is perhaps a signpost along the information superhighway that several industry newsletters are now dedicated solely to reporting the ever-accelerating growth rate of local exchange competition. Ameritech supports the full recognition of local exchange competition in the Commission's current planning efforts for E911 compatibility and fully expects all providers of local exchange services to provide consistent E911 functionality.⁴

II. THE ROLE OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS BODIES

Ameritech agrees with the broad cross-section of commenting parties who advocate continued effort in the industry forums already dealing with the myriad of complex technical issues inherent in this matter.⁵ To force-fit technical solutions to wireless E911's problems in this early stage of ALI's development could cause the deployment of less desirable technologies on an interim basis, resulting in short-term "throwaway" technologies which meet schedules at the cost of serious economic inefficiency.⁶ Ameritech supports and participates in

³ As has been widely reported in the press, local exchange certification has been granted or requested in several states within the geographic region served by Ameritech's local exchange affiliates. Applicants to date include the local exchange subsidiaries of MCI, Time Warner, MFS, Teleport, and US Signal.

⁴ Although MCI proudly states that it has requested or received certification as a local exchange carrier in eleven states, it predictably argues for both special treatment (designing a new responsibility-free class of carrier, which it calls a "competitive local exchange service provider," or "CLESP",) and delay (in the form of an ambiguous future proceeding to be initiated by the Commission); Comments of MCI, at 2-3.

⁵ <u>See, e.g.,</u> Comments of Alltel, at 5-6; Comments of BellSouth, at 4-5; Comments of Interagency Committee of Search And Rescue, at 5; Comments of International Communications Association, at 3; Comments of Nextel, at 7; Comments of OPASTCO, at 7; Comments of PCIA, at 3-4; Comments of US West, at 2-9.

⁶ Comments of BellSouth, at 11-13.

the standards process and feels any technology for E911 must follow the industry accepted process prior to any deployment.

Similarly, mandatory federal standards for PBX and Centrex compliance would override the bona fide efforts of the industry to develop workable solutions to E911 compatibility problems. For example, implementing the suggestion that the Commission mandate E911 access from PBXs without dialing a leading digit "9"7 would create known significant user training problems. Real-world trials of this approach have repeatedly shown that severe caller confusion and timing problems are a certain result; PBX and Centrex users simply expect to dial a leading "9" before placing an outside call.8

Likewise, industry experience has shown that the concept of a mandatory rule that North American Numbering Plan ("NANP")-based telephone numbers must be assigned to uniquely identify all PBX station numbers⁹ would make little real-world sense. Given the pace at which both telephone numbers and NPA's are being exhausted by current growth rates across the breadth of the telecommunications industry, as well as the advent of number portability which -- by its very nature and design -- removes the geographic meaning of the telephone number itself, such a mandate would be simply pointless.

III. APPLICABILITY OF THE RULES TO ALL CMRS PROVIDERS

Several commenting parties urge the Commission to carve out special-interest exclusions from the rules, for the specific two-way communications services which they themselves provide. Despite Congress' mandate in the Budget Act of 1993, to regulate Commercial Mobile Radio Services in a manner which will

⁷ Comments of APCO/NENA/NASNA, at 4, 17-18.

⁸ See, e.g., Comments of Tracer, at 9.

⁹ Comments of APCO/NENA/NASNA, at 21.

V. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should implement its E911 compatibility rules in the manner described. This course will ensure the timely availability of advanced E911 capabilities to the public at large, and in the optimal manner for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

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bring "all mobile service providers under a comprehensive, consistent regulatory framework"¹⁰, special exemptions are sought in the Comments for satellite-based services¹¹, "local" two-way radio services¹², two-way dispatch SMR operators¹³, Personal Digital Assistants¹⁴, and SMR services in general¹⁵. These unsupported, transparent attempts to competitively favor the commenting parties' own offerings in the wireless services marketplace should be rejected outright by the Commission.

IV. THE INFANT STAGE OF ALI TECHNOLOGY

The parties are nearly unanimous in noting that the current stage of automatic location identification ("ALI") technology does not permit the imposition of meaningful long-term deadlines for deployment, nor even for standards of accuracy. ¹⁶ In this area as well as those discussed above, an industry-driven standards process, with its attendant benefits of hands-on experience and negotiation among the parties directly involved in implementation, offers the only workable means to determine the appropriate future course of development for these important capabilities.

¹⁰ In the Matter of Implementation of Sections 3(n) and 332 of the Communications Act - Regulatory Treatment of Mobile Service, GN Docket No. 93-252, <u>Second Report and Order</u> (released March 7, 1994), at 7 (¶ 12).

Comments of AMSC Subsidiary Corp., at 7 (compliance would be "too costly to be justified"); Comments of Constellation Communications, Inc. (compliance "would create significant hardships by adding cost and complexity"); Comments of TRW Inc., at 2-3 (compliance is "likely to be unduly costly").

¹² Comments of E.F. Johnson Co., at 5-6.

¹³ Comments of GEOTEK Communications, Inc., at 2-3.

¹⁴ Comments of Motorola, Inc., at 6.

¹⁵ Comments of Nextel, at 4 (rules should cover only those services provided to "users of the PSTN").

See, e.g., Comments of Alltel, at 3; Comments of AT&T, at 32-3; Comments of Bell Atlantic, at 9-11; Comments of BellSouth, at 11-13; Comments of CTIA, at 6-7; Comments of Elert and Associates, at 2-4; Comments of Ericsson, at 6-9; Comments of GTE, at 20-24; Comments of Motorola, at 14-16.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Deborah L. Thrower do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing REPLY COMMENTS OF AMERITECH has been served on the parties listed on the attached service list, by first class mail, postage prepaid, on this 17th day of March 1995.

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